

REPORT ON BLACK STUDIES

In an attempt to get an accurate questionnaire the same questions were asked. The departmental chairmen were interviewed and the reports reflect the perceptions and attitudes of these chairmen. The questions addressed departmental policies, student and faculty interests, faculty qualifications and research facilities. On an aside I found it interesting that I interviewed no female faculty members.

ART

John Hunisak was interviewed for the Art department. He stated that the members of the department did not instruct black american art as a separate movement. Any discussion of black art would occur as a professor discussed the work of a black artist. At this time he knew of no black artists that were studied. He pointed out that art is often color blind and occasionally a black artist is studied without the knowledge that the artist is black. Mr. Hunisak remarked that the department did instruct African art as a separate movement. A winter term course this year will spend a great deal of time studying early African art. When asked about student faculty interests he stated that he knew of little interest in black art among students or faculty. The library does have material on black art but it is limited. The school art collection contains no work or reproductions of black art. There are some slides in the slide holdings but they make up a small percentage. This department questions the validity of black art as a separate movement and from this premise they justify their action.

ECONOMICS

John Craven was interviewed for the economics department. Mr. Craven pointed out that a major portion of the courses study economic theory. There are five elective courses that could address issues in black studies. These courses include Public Finance, Radical Economics, Urban Economics, Labor Economics and Inequality and Poverty. Mr. Craven stated that

the percentage of these courses that address black issues is determined by the instructing professor. In past years percentages of attention have been minor. Inequality and Poverty and Urban Economics have approached issues of social welfare and the urban plight of black americans. Overall the department has not placed importance on the study of black economic issues. Professor Craven pointed out that the percentages of attention depended on the approach of the text books. He also said that alternative text books that give more attention to black issues could easily be used.

The faculty interest in black related issues has been minimal although it could increase in the future. Student interest has not existed in the past and the future promises no increase. The department has some professors qualified to discuss these issues. There appears to be some interest in increased discussion about black material in the department. Finally, Mr. Craven complimented Starr library on their receptiveness to black materials. A black economic journal was purchased to fill the gap of information. At this time the library is equipped to handle research.

HISTORY

Mr. Jacobs was interviewed for the history department. This department appears to be one of the more progressive departments in the school. Approximately forty percent of the courses in American history address black related issues. The courses either reserve a specific section for black issues or address black issues periodically through out the course. This department offers a black course history every other year. Black issues constitute important portions of courses. The faculty appears to hold a commitment as a department and as individuals to the consideration of issues in black history. The faculty appears to be qualified to discuss these issues but one professor plays a major role in this qualification.

Interests in black issues is strong in this department among students and professors teaching american history. The interests in black history may support an increase in frequency of courses devoted totally to black history. This interests also manifests itself in the number of papers that address black history.

There is a concern that Starr library is not as strong as it should be in black history. In the last ten years few new sources have been acquired. The department has not kept up because no one has specifically addressed this research concern but, the department is willing to allocate funds to this problem.

MUSIC

Professor Fanning was interviewed for the music department. He stated that black music forms would only be studied in courses on american music. The american music section is only a portion of the department. He said that within the american section little attention was given to black music forms. He pointed out two classes American Popular Music and a course in American Folk Music might make references to influences black music forms had on american music. At the present time there are no jazz courses. The members of the department have limited exposure to the study of black music forms.

Mr. Fanning stated that was a great interest in jazz among students and some professors. Next year the concert series will have jazz performances to address the interest in jazz. Mr. Fanning believes that Starr and the music library are well equipped to handle research in black music. He stated that our facilities are just as good as any college our size.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Murray Dry was interviewed for the political science department. He pointed out that only courses in American Political Institutions division could address black issues. Approximately 40 percent of the courses within American Political Institutions address black questions. PS 102 devotes an entire section to the black political question in America. PS 305 and 306 are both classes on constitution that address issues in civil liberties. These discussions of civil liberties center around black political issues. The department recognizes the importance of race in the study of american politics. A winter term course will be offered on urban politics. The

department appears to have a commitment but, this commitment emanates from the perspective of one influential professor.

The professors in American Political Institution are qualified to teach black issues. The students believe that the departmental commitment is sufficient but, an increase might receive great attention. Mr. Dry stated that Starr library was equipped well in in American politics but, additions would drastically better the present holdings.